

Pedestrian Advisory Programs & Policies Subcommittee
Monday, March 27, 2023
Minutes

Members present: Austin Holik, Andrea Riehl, Andrew Frenz, Sara Dunlap, Neal Baxter, Donn Poll, Leisa Meeuwen-Ristuben, Aundrea Curtis, Emma Pachuta, Tom Thao, Julia Curran, Kadence Novak

Staff present: Andrew Degerstrom

Approval of the Agenda

- Neal moved the agenda; Donn seconded. Approved.

Health Care Grant—Tom Thao, Minneapolis Department of Health

- The Minneapolis Health Department is applying for a grant from the national Centers for Disease Control. It's called the Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) grant. Applications are due next week. The grant would provide \$1.1 million each year for four years. Blacks, Indigenous people and immigrants from Africa will be the focus groups under this grant. We hope to promote healthy living among these populations with four approaches: 1) improving nutrition and following prescriptions urged by doctors, 2) encouraging breast feeding and other ways to boost infant health, 3) boosting awareness of the need for adult vaccinations, and 4) raising interest in the health benefits of physical activity.
- Little Earth is a partner in this, and North Minneapolis will be the other area of concentration.

Capital Improvement Program for 2024-2029—Katie White & Peter Bennett, Public Works

- Katie & Peter came to give us an update on this year's CIP list, and to review how projects are selected and funded.
- There are 2 kinds of Capital Improvement projects. Programs are city-wide agendas, focusing on a type of infrastructure or repair. Protected bikeways are an example. The City adds to this network every year. Projects are specific to location, and typically involve fully rebuilding a road or bridge to completion. The recent Hennepin Avenue project is an example, and so is the reconstruction of the aging Nicollet Avenue bridge over Minnehaha Creek.
- Projects are chosen to carry out the goals of official City policy statements, like the Transportation Action Plan and the 20-Year Streets Funding Plan. The Street Design Guide determines what standards the end result must meet (street width, accessibility, etc.)
- Other agencies share the cost of the CIP proposals. Hennepin County and the state both fund projects on the streets under their jurisdiction.
- The CIP is a schedule of projects, on a 6-year budget. The list is drawn up and approved annually. Funding for these projects comes from bonds, the City's general fund, federal and state grants and from assessments on adjacent property owners.
- The City's Capital Long-Range Improvement Committee (CLIC) hears presentations about each project, and decides which projects have high and low priority.
- Since December's report, we have learned that the City's application for the federal Safe Routes for All grant was not successful. This was a very competitive grant. However, the City's Regional Solicitation applications brought in \$65 million worth of funding.

- Inflation has made funding CIP projects more challenging recently. Costs of paving and other materials have risen, and work will be scaled back accordingly.
- Federal funding forces the City to schedule projects when the money is offered, which reduces our flexibility to plan when to do other work.
- Questions included the following:
 - Frenz: Is inflation changing the way you plan for projects? KW: Our immediate response to higher costs is to build less.
 - Frenz: If the infrastructure standards change, who changes them? KW: The City does.
 - Curran: How do we get benches? KW: Individual projects may be able to pay for them. We won't set up a CIP program especially to pay for these amenities.
- Katie & Peter will return to the PAC in July.

Recruitment for the PAC in 2023—Julia Curran, co-chair

- We discussed various methods of recruiting neighbors to apply for a seat on the PAC. Applications for the 2-year term that begins in July are due at the end of April. Austin proposed that we think about how to reach potential applicants, and commit to an approach at the April PAC meeting.
- Andrew added that the City Clerks have told him that changes to the PAC are coming soon, maybe in 2024. Membership will be ward-specific, not city-wide, and 2 will be appointed by the mayor. Like the CLIC.

Self-Reflection—Julia Curran & Austin Holik, co-chairs

- We had a short discussion about what works and what doesn't seem to. We could have given this more time.

Adjournment

- Austin moved to adjourn; Leisa seconded. Approved, and adjourned at 6:03 PM.